

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 1, 9, 18, 27 and 32 are amended hereby. Please note, for purposes of clarification, the previous cancellation of a duplicate usage of claims 5 and 6 has been omitted from listing of claims in the foregoing section.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,436,241 (Persson et al.), Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 18 and 27 and submit that claims 1-32 are now in condition for allowance.

Persson et al. discloses a suction roll seal strip with wear indicator (Fig. 1) for indicating wear of the seal strip. The indicator is arranged to continuously give a measure of a remaining wear allowance and preferably also a wear rate of the seal strip (Abstract). There may be a level indicator, preferably of the potentiometer type, which is arranged to measure the position of a fixed point at or in the seal strip. Thereby, the level indicator continuously shows the seal strip is displaced upwards as the wearing takes place, whereby the displacement and thereby also the value measured by the level indicator may indirectly and continuously give a measure of the remaining allowance (column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 7). Inflatable tubes 4 of an extensible material, such as a polymeric material, are arranged between seal strip 1 and profile 3. When seal strip 1 is new, tubes 4 are collapsed. A transmitter 5, which is only shown schematically, operates according to the reluctance method in this embodiment based on measurements of magnetic resistance. Transmitter 5 is arranged to measure the distance between mantle surface 2a and a surface 6. Transmitter 5 is arranged in surface 6 and includes a core 7, about which two coils 8 and 9 are arranged. Coils 8 and 9 are fed a current to make them operate in opposite directions. If the distance between surfaces 6 and 2a is altered, following the wearing of seal strip 1, the reluctance for the part of transmitter 5, which is being fed from coil 8, is

altered, whereby current flow through direct current meter 10 arises. A current generator alters the current feed to coil 8 so that the resulting flow through direct current meter 10 becomes equal to zero again. The output measure, which is a measure of the difference between two currents in coils 8 and 9 will continuously be proportional to the distance between surface 6 and surface 2a (column 4, lines 8-59).

In contrast, claim 1 as amended, recites in part:

each said sensor providing an output signal indicative of a position of said at least one correspondent target relative to said holder.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Persson et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Persson et al. discloses a suction roll seal strip having a wear indicator. Persson et al. teaches the measuring of a distance from an underneath portion of the seal to the suction roll. In contrast, Applicant's invention measures the distance a seal extends from a holder by utilizing a non-contact proximity sensor of magnetic or optical type and does not depend upon imbalances of electrical current in a balanced coil configuration of Persson et al. The invention of Persson et al. provides a relative measure between the seal and ferrous surface 2A and does not measure the extension of the seal strip from the holder. Applicant's invention measures the position of a target on the seal strip relative to the holder of the seal strip, while Persson et al. measures a distance from an underneath portion of a seal strip to a roll. The sensor of Persson et al. is associated with the seal strip and Applicant's invention positions a sensor apart from the seal strip while monitoring a position of a portion of the seal strip. Therefore, Persson et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a sensor that

provides an output signal indicative of a position of the at least one corresponding target relative to the holder, as recited in claim 1.

An advantage of Applicant's invention is that the sensor is not a part of the wear strip thereby reducing the cost of the wear strip. Another advantage of the present invention is that it measures the extension of the seal strip, which advantageously can provide information on the eccentricity of the suction roll. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 2-8, 31 and 32 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 9 as amended, recites in part:

each said sensor providing an output signal indicative of a position of said at least one correspondent target relative to said holder.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Persson et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Persson et al. discloses a suction roll seal strip having a wear indicator. Persson et al. teaches the measuring of a distance from an underneath portion of the seal to the suction roll. In contrast, Applicant's invention measures the distance a seal extends from a holder by utilizing a non-contact proximity sensor of magnetic or optical type and does not depend upon imbalances of electrical current in a balanced coil configuration of Persson et al. The invention of Persson et al. provides a relative measure between the seal and ferrous surface 2A and does not measure the extension of the seal strip from the holder. Applicant's invention measures the position of a target on the seal strip relative to the holder of the seal strip, while Persson et al. measures a distance from an underneath portion of a seal strip to a roll. The sensor of Persson et al. is associated with the seal strip and Applicant's invention positions a sensor apart from the seal strip

while monitoring a position of a portion of the seal strip. Therefore, Persson et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a sensor that provides an output signal indicative of a position of the at least one corresponding target relative to the holder, as recited in claim 9.

An advantage of Applicant's invention is that the sensor is not a part of the wear strip thereby reducing the cost of the wear strip. Another advantage of the present invention is that it measures the extension of the seal strip, which advantageously can provide information on the eccentricity of the suction roll. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 9, and claims 10-17 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In still further contrast, claim 18 as amended, recites in part:

each said sensor providing an output signal indicative of a position of said at least one correspondent target relative to said holder.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Persson et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Persson et al. discloses a suction roll seal strip having a wear indicator. Persson et al. teaches the measuring of a distance from an underneath portion of the seal to the suction roll. In contrast, Applicant's invention measures the distance a seal extends from a holder by utilizing a non-contact proximity sensor of magnetic or optical type and does not depend upon imbalances of electrical current in a balanced coil configuration of Persson et al. The invention of Persson et al. provides a relative measure between the seal and ferrous surface 2A and does not measure the extension of the seal strip from the holder. Applicant's invention measures the position of a target on the seal strip relative to the holder of the seal strip, while Persson et al. measures a

distance from an underneath portion of a seal strip to a roll. The sensor of Persson et al. is associated with the seal strip and Applicant's invention positions a sensor apart from the seal strip while monitoring a position of a portion of the seal strip. Therefore, Persson et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a sensor that provides an output signal indicative of a position of the at least one corresponding target relative to the holder, as recited in claim 18.

An advantage of Applicant's invention is that the sensor is not a part of the wear strip thereby reducing the cost of the wear strip. Another advantage of the present invention is that it measures the extension of the seal strip, which advantageously can provide information on the eccentricity of the suction roll. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 18, and claims 19-26 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In yet still further contrast, claim 27 as amended, recites in part:

outputting a signal from said sensor indicative of a position of said at least one correspondent target relative to said holder.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Persson et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Persson et al. discloses a suction roll seal strip having a wear indicator. Persson et al. teaches the measuring of a distance from an underneath portion of the seal to the suction roll. In contrast, Applicant's invention measures the distance a seal extends from a holder by utilizing a non-contact proximity sensor of magnetic or optical type and does not depend upon imbalances of electrical current in a balanced coil configuration of Persson et al. The invention of Persson et al. provides a relative measure between the seal and ferrous surface 2A and does not measure the

extension of the seal strip from the holder. Applicant's invention measures the position of a target on the seal strip relative to the holder of the seal strip, while Persson et al. measures a distance from an underneath portion of a seal strip to a roll. The sensor of Persson et al. is associated with the seal strip and Applicant's invention positions a sensor apart from the seal strip while monitoring a position of a portion of the seal strip. Therefore, Persson et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest the step of outputting a signal from a sensor indicative of a position of the at least one correspondent target relative to the holder, as recited in claim 27.

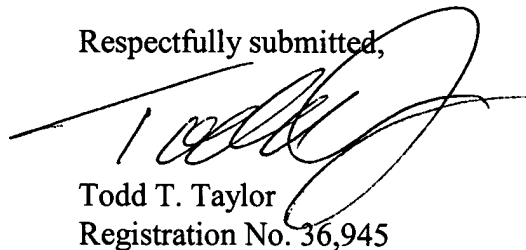
An advantage of Applicant's invention is that the sensor is not a part of the wear strip thereby reducing the cost of the wear strip. Another advantage of the present invention is that it measures the extension of the seal strip, which advantageously can provide information on the eccentricity of the suction roll. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 27, and claims 28-30 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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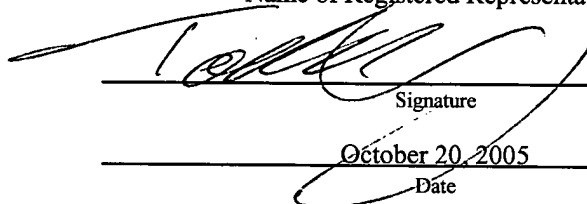
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: October 20, 2005.

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Name of Registered Representative



Signature

October 20, 2005

Date